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CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

AND, THE WAR OF

1812

reprinted from old newspaper clippings from Chillicothe newspapers. And, found preserved in the scrap-book kept by the Bennett Family of Chillicothe. H.H.Bennett probably wrote all the articles reprinted within this brochure.

Henry Bennett

Scioto Valley Folk Research Project
The Ross County Historical Society
Chillicothe, Ohio 1962

Scioto Valley Folk Publications... No. 3

1912559

NOTE:

The editor dedicates this humble publication to LAWRENCE M. WILSON, native and resident of Montreal, Canada. Mr. Wilson is editor of The International Satirist and is well-known for his historical book This Was Montreal 1814-1817. He is a life member of The Ross County Historical Society.

David K. Webb

Chillicothe, Ohio.
November 27, 1962.

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CHILLICOTHE IN the WAR OF 1812

OHIO VALLEY FOLK RESEARCH PROJECT
(an adventure in folk journalism)
The Ross County Historical Society
Chillicothe, Ohio

Perry's victory on Lake Erie one hundred years ago today was a very great achievement. It was the turning point of the War of 1812 and meant that the whole Northwest and Mississippi Valley should be forever American and that the United States, instead of being confined to the original thirteen colonies along the Atlantic Coast, should extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. And so it is entitled to rank as one of the decisive battles of the world.

(the above from Scioto Gazette of Sept. 12, 1913 was probably written by H.H.Bennett who authored the other articles in this brochure)

(Scioto Gazette- Sept. 12, 1913)

'IMPORTANT PAPERS PUBLISHED FOR FIRST TIME SHOW CHILLICOTHE END OF COMMODORE PERRY'S VICTORY'

"Conspiracy of Prisoners Discovered -- British Officers Thrown into Close Confinement -- Guards Doubled -- Ordered to Shoot -- Details of a Plot to Overpower the Guard and Burn Chillicothe.""

The above would probably have been something like the headlines in the Scioto Gazette for Friday, Feb. 11, 1814, had this paper been in the habit of using "scare heads" at that date. On that day, or the one preceding it, occurred the exposure of the famous plot of the British prisoners here to overpower the guard, seize the arms and ammunition in the United States arsenal at the northwest corner of Second and Walnut streets, release some of the British officers who were in jail, burn and loot the town and escape to Canada. The story of the plot and the attending happenings, told by a United States official, in the original manuscript, has come into the possession of the Gazette.

This, together with other documents relating to the British prisoners here, make a story of other days which is of especial interest now. Some of the details given in these papers have never before been published.

The papers belonged to the estate of David Collins, at one time U. S. sub-agent for British prisoners at Chillicothe. He was a resident here until the time of his death. One of his daughters married into the Gilmore family. Another member of his family married into the Lansing family, and Mr Lansing Collins lives, or at last accounts lived, in Washington D. C.

The Story Opens.

The story opens on September 10, 1813, when Oliver Hazard Perry, then only Master-Commander, U. S. N., sailed out of Put-in-Bay to meet a British fleet under command of Captain Barclay. The story of that fight is known to all Ohioans; and, now, one hundred years afterward, Perry's victory is being celebrated on the scene of the famous battle.

The advantage in the fight lay with Perry. He had 9 vessels, with a total of 1671 tons, throwing a broadside of 936 pounds of metal, and 416 men fit for duty. Barclay had 6 vessels of 1469 tons, throwing 459 pounds to the broadside, and 440 effective men. In number of ships and weight of metal Perry had the better in almost the proportion of 3 to 2. The fight was a desperate one on both sides, but at its close the American commander sent that famous message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

This victory threw a large number of prisoners into Perry's hands. To leave them on the lake, or near it, was to give them a too easy chance of escape, so they were marched inland. Part of them went to Newport, Ky., but the larger part tramped across country until they came to the capital of Ohio, Chillicothe. It must have been an exciting day for the people of the little town when the prisoners marched in, sailors of Barclay's fleet, soldiers of the British 41st Foot Regiment, officers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, "gentlemen volunteers" and even two [illegible]. The last

had been captured on the Detroit, Barclay's flag-ship, where they had been placed to act as sharpshooters. When the big guns began booming, however, the redmen ran below, and, after the fight, were found skulking in the hold. When brought before Perry they expected to be tortured and killed, and were greatly astonished at being spared.

Trailing along behind the prisoners, or clinging to the arms of some of them were women and children, 14 women and 28 children, families of some of the Canadians, who had followed their husbands and fathers into captivity. That this is so is attested by one of the old documents, which reads:

"Account of blankets received by David Collins (late sub-Agent for British prisoners of war at Chillicothe in the State of Ohio) from the women and children that were detained with said prisoners, which Blankets had been Delivered to them, as Barrack bedding to be returned when called upon. Number: Fourteen women, twenty-eight children." Received from women, 14 blankets; from children, 15.

Through the town marched the prisoners. The commander of the guard reported, at the arsenal, to Major Campbell, commanding officer, and then on went the procession, with, you may be sure, all the small boys in town trotting after, to the stockaded camp, "Camp Bull," which lay on the bank of the Scioto, above town, about where the Driving Park now is.

As described by Mr. Wm. Winship, then one of the boys who trailed after the prisoners, Camp Bull was "an oblong square, three sides of which were formed of cabins facing inward; the side next the river was picketed. Within this the prisoners were comfortably quartered, and guarded by the neighboring militia, till the arrival of the Kentucky troops. One of the cabins was occupied by two Indians who were taken on board a British vessel for the purpose of acting as sharpshooters in picking off American officers. They were very large men, of the Shawnee tribe, and could speak no English, except that one of them could say 'God d n Yankee.' Between the line of pickets and the river was a sugar-tree grove."

In this prison camp were confined a varying number of prisoners, for some of them were sent to other points, and more were received, especially after the battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. One Indian interpreter had been a prisoner since October, 1812. According to arrangements with the British government each prisoner received a certain sum each day, in addition to clothing and blankets. The money was paid to them by the U. S. government and collected from the English government.

A report dated January 28, 1814, gives the rank and number of prisoners at that time and the amount allowed each, per day. This shows that 331 prisoners had received their allowance, divided as follows: Lieutenants (naval) 5, sixpence per day; masters, 2, masters mates, 2, midshipmen, 7, each getting threepence. Two "gentlemen volunteers" each got threepence. Indian interpreter, 1; sailors, Royal Navy, 104; soldiers, 41st Reg't, 141, Royal Newfoundland Reg't, 65; Indians, 2; each got one and one-half pence per day. All of these, except.....stockings, handkerchiefs, vests and blankets.

The sub-agent for the prisoners was at first Thomas S. Hinde

Whether he was American or English seems doubtful, for while he speaks in his reports of "our currency," he also classes himself with the English. He resigned in 1814, and David Collins took his place. Hinde continued to live in Chillicothe for a time, at least, for in 1815 the Gazette records the death of his oldest child, Thomas, aged 6, on September 20. Hinde afterward, probably, moved to Kentucky, and became a judge, afterward removing to Mt. Carmel, Illinois, for a letter to the American Pioneer, from the latter place, bears the same signature as those on the old reports.

The officer to whom the sub-agents made their reports was Thomas Barclay, who dates his letters from Harlem, N. Y. He acted under Gen. John Mason, Commissary for British Prisoners of War. In a long letter dated Dec. 28, 1813, Barclay issues instructions to Mr. Hinde, telling him to be careful about issuing and keeping track of blankets, to issue such "rasors," combs, etc., as might be needed, and not to advance too much money to the prisoners. He also advises the allowance of each man, including "volunteers, if gentlemen of family" and "passengers of genteel rank," who were to get threepence. If not genteel they got three half-pence.

The first letter from Thomas Hinde, dated Nov. 16, 1813, to Colonel Barclay, was one of expostulation on account of certain of the British officers having been ordered into close confinement, presumably, as retaliation for the brutal treatment of American prisoners in England. The old letter runs thus:

Col. Thomas Barclay:

Sir- I had the honor of addressing you on the 23rd instant. On the 24th orders were received by the Marshal (Thomas Steele, Agent and deputy U. S. Marshal) from the Government and all the British officers taken by Comodore Perry and stationed here were put into close confinement on the 25th, a Circumstance to the Citizens of this Place extremely Painful that such measures should become necessary and possibly to be much more so on the nature of the Duties imposed upon me led to an Acquaintance with some and the removal of unfavourable impressions against others Possibly too preceptably formed. This Measure no doubt has been anticipated by you as proceeding from our Government. I do humbly trust, Sir, that they will not be under the disagreeable necessity of enforcing it in its rigor. But perhaps I have Trespassed by Advancing the subject thus far. In consequence of the officers being confined I have repeatedly visited them, and on their credit, until I could hear from you, I have furnished them blankets. It may be necessary to extend further relief to them, on which no doubt they will inform you, as Maj. Chambers who had not left this was confined. He promised to write. I requested Lt. Stokoe to write also. Col. Evans (taken by Genl. Harrison) and some other officers arrived this evening and Maj. Chambers will, I understand, be ordered with them to Newport."

The rest of the letter asks that he be made an allowance for postage and stationery, as the price of everything had gone up, and the government seemed to have overlooked those items. The Major Chambers referred to may have been, and probably was, the infantry officer under Proctor, who, with a man named Dickson, was sent by Proctor to demand the surrender of Fort Stephenson from Col. Croghan. Lieutenant Stokoe seems to have looked after prisoners'

supplies, as there are a number of reports signed by him. He was captured by Commodore Perry. His ship is not given and historians seem mixed up about him. Lossing's field book tells of a Lt. Stoke, of the Queen Charlotte, and Roosevelt, in his naval war of 1812, speaks of Lieutenant Stokes, of the same ship, as desperately wounded. He afterward died and was buried at Put-in-Bay. Maclay, however, says the lieutenant on the Queen Charlotte was Thomas Stokoe, who was evidently alive in Chillicothe.

The officers placed in confinement were as follows: Maj. Chambers, Lts. O'Keife and Cale, 41st reg't; Lt. Garmer, Royal Newfoundland reg't; Mr. Richardson and Mr. Gardner, gentlemen volunteers, and the following naval officers--Lts. Stokoe, Purvis, Irving, Brimmer, and Hallett; Masters, H. Nelson, Wm. Miller; Masters Mates Collins and Campbell; Midshipmen Fortier, Hands, Gibbs, Purvis, Pherson, Culverville and Nelson jr. Warrant officers Pack, Byas, Johnes (2), Biddow, Goverenux and James.

Mr. Hinde's next letter to Colonel Barclay, dated January 25th, 1814, after acknowledging a letter from Col. Barclay, says: "I omitted in my last to mention the circumstances of the removal of the officers who were confined here from this place to Frankfort, Kentucky (those of the Navy excepted who have been for some time on their Parole). He is particular to say that he got back the blankets which had been issued to them.

He then goes on to mention some Chillicotheans whose names are familiar ones here: "My Bill for Clothing and Blankets will be in favour of Mr. James Mc Clintick who has rendered me many services and to whom I am under great obligations for his ready assistance. The Bill for Pay will be in favour of Mr. John Woodbridge, Cashier of the Chillicothe Bank." This bank afterwards built and occupied the house now occupied as a clubhouse by the B. P. O. E.

"It gives me great satisfaction," goes on the writer, "to find from your letter of the 6th instant that my conduct and the steps taken by me have been approved by you and the more so from the very friendly regard manifested by you for an entire stranger, and can assure you, Sir, that I, with many others of my countrymen, entertain very high personal respect for Col. Barclay, and regret that the unhappy war in which we are engaged should make us enemies, tho' personal friends. Our mutual friend Gen'l Taylor passed through this place on the 22d Inst. I took the liberty of showing him your friendly letter. If the blessings of Peace should be once more hailed as subsisting between our respective nations whose interest above all others it should be to be at peace, and if my health which is much recovered permit, I may visit New York and shall not fail in doing myself the honour of paying you a visit. My wife's relations live in the city and I have some family affairs to settle there which leads me to anticipate in some degree the journey.

"With sentiments of great respect I have the honour of being your very Ob't Serv't."

"P. S. Your instructions respecting a list of the men, etc., will be attended to. I find Lt. Stokoe as usual in advance of me in having one now preparing for you. The greater part of those who deserted (escaped) have been retaken and bro't back, also a

number of those taken by Gen'l Harrison who deserted have also been brought in. From 280 or thereabouts our number of men has got up to 303 or 4. Three have been released by the Commanding Officer, the particulars Lt. Stokoe no doubt will give you.

"We have lost two by death, one man shot by the guard at night and a boy who died from an attack of Rheumatism and violent Colds otherwise affecting him. One who had been wounded in action has had a leg taken off is in good way of recovery. One other only confined with sickness, the rest generally are uncommonly hearty and as comfortably fixed as circumstances could possibly permit. The Midshipmen's clothing is in considerable forwardness.

"Yours &c.

"N. B. Jan. 26th, 1814.--I am just this minute informed that the sick man confined with a (illegible) fever died suddenly last night (dropt off his seat)."

The Conspiracy

Chillicothe, Feb. 18th, 1814

Col. Thomas Barclay--

Sir:--On Monday the 14th all the officers who had been a few days previously put into close confinement were ordered from this place to Frankfort (Kentucky) and went by water the most comfortable way that they could have gone at the present season.

"A circumstance of a very disagreeable nature occurred on thursday or friday preceeding their departure from this place. It had been communicated to Col. Campbell the Commanding Officer here that a Conspiracy had been discovered to exist between the Officers in Confinement and the men at the Camp, with a design on the part of the men to rise on their guard, take their arms and set fire to the town and rescue the officers.

"I happened to be with the officers when an order came in consequence of it to put ten of them in Irons and upon enquiry was informed that a tender of the services of the men or a part of them had been made, but was informed by Lt. Stokoe that the proposition was rejected by them, and that it would have been communicated to the citizens if they had not been apprehensive that they would be punished by the Commanding Officer for it, but had communicated the circumstances to one or two confidential friends. I went to Col. Campbell and requested if practicable to suspend or Mitigate the rigour of his order but without Effect. A circumstance of the kind was calculated to inflame the minds of the Citizens, consequently any intreaty on my part was unnecessary. They were sent off from this place in Irons.

"Without giving my opinion on this disagreeable subject I barely feel it my duty to state to you the Facts. It was one of the Individuals to whom the circumstances had been communicated in Confidence that informed the Commanding Officer of it."

He also says that he let the officers take with them two blankets each, which they had had while in jail to Frankfort, but that he will get them back. He then adds:

"By next mail I hope to forward to you a Copy of the report

on the case of the man who was shot, the Physician's general report which I requested him to make out, a Copy of the report on the trial of two for desertion, and an account of those who have deserted. Those deserted have principally returned except two or three who I have understood have entered the United States service.

"I hope, Sir, you will request Mr. Collins to act in my place. I will afford him all the aid in my power and can assure you my business is of such a nature that I cannot act any longer."

Only one letter to Col. Barclay from Mr. David Collins is among the old documents. That is dated March 15th, 1814, and is as follows:

"At the request of Mr. Hinde who is now absent I have herewith enclosed to you a List of the names of the Prisoners at the Camp in the Vicinity of Chillicothe made out of this date, designating the reg'ts and ships they belonged to and their rank, also the Deaths, Desertions and removals.

"Mr. Hinde has left with me an order on the bank of Chillicothe to draw the Allowance Money of the Prisoners which will be done as soon as an examination of the Blankets can take place, and when he returns which will be in the course of ten days, the men not being in an immediate want as Soap and Tobacco had been issued to them previous to the arrival of their allowance. The Clothing for the present Quarter has nearly all been delivered agreeable to the wants and necessities of the men. Mr Hinde has thought it not necessary as the winter has been more than usually moderate more than one blanket to each man except to some who have lost theirs and are willing to be Accountable for them."

The list of prisoners, unfortunately, is not with the letter, but on the back is a short memorandum of deaths and escapes, as follows:

"Names of the men deserted before this date -- Samuel Watts, Jacob Broudway, Francis Beason, John Harbour, James Biggins, Thomas Mountain, Henry Burrissaw, Lewis Le Beance, Charles Millett, John B. Dunion, John Gerrow, Baptist Sangree, Lewis Debay, Francis Lucsinoe, Baptist Coutant, Augustus Densile, Michael Broyle, William Pike, Died -- Richard Rice, Thomas Martin.

There is also a letter from Lieutenant Thomas Stokoe, R. N., dated at Frankfort, Ky., "Aprile" 12th, 1814, in reply to one from Mr. Collins. The main part is devoted to straightening out the matter of allowances, but he cannot get away from the all-important topic, and writes: "You say it is Col. Barclay's request in the event of being exchanged to return the Blankets to Mr. Hubbard Berry. When that takes place very probably we may go by way of Chillicothe, then I think it would do as well to return them to you and it would answer much better for us.

"When you write again I wish you would have the goodness to let me know how the Prisoners are getting on, if any more desertions have taken place, if Col. Barclay was satisfied with the way in which the men were clothed.....From your writing I suppose that you are now Sub-Agent. I have not the least doubt but you will act with that kindness and humanity and endeavor to relieve the wants of the Prisoners and redress their grievances as far as lays in your power which your predecessor did in a most eminent degree before you.

"P. S. Give my best respects to Mr. Hinde and family and

tell him I should be very happy to hear from him. All his acquaintances desire to be kindly remembered."

That is the story of the British prisoners in the old stockaded camp on the high bank of the Scioto. Brought there, the most of them, about the first of October, 1813, the majority of the officers remained only until January, 1814. The enlisted men remained until the end of the war in 1815, when a general exchange of prisoners took place. Many of the officers, while on parole, had quarters with private families, others were at various inns. Many of them, too, formed acquaintances and friendships with the townspeople. It would be interesting to know if these relations were kept up, or if, at the expiration of the war and the return to England and Canada, they died a natural death. David Collins lived here the rest of his life, and his descendants after him. Thomas Hinde, as noted, probably moved to Kentucky and afterward to Illinois, but it is not written what became of Lieutenant Stokoe and the rest of the British Prisoners at Chillicothe.

(H.H.B.)

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(reprinted from newsclipping with no identity and n. d.)

Perry's Victory on Lake Erie

The following are the words of an old battlesong, sung in Ohio at the time of the war with Great Britain in 1813, and after Mr. R. T. Houk learned the song from his grandfather, who often sang it to him. It is given here as a memento of the occasion when Commodore Perry achieved his great victory over the British on Lake Erie, whose centenary is now being celebrated.

PERRIES VICTORY ON LAKE ERIE

You tars of Columbia give ear to my storey
Who fought with brave Perrey whose cannons did roar
Your vallour has gaind you an immortal glorey
And fame that will last till time is no more
Columbians tars are the true sons of Mars
Who rake fore and aft when the fight on the deep
On the bead of Lake Erie commanded by Perrey
They caused meny Brittons to take their last sleep.

On the tenth of September let us all remember
As long as the globe on its axes roals round
Soon our tars and mariens on Lake Erie ware seen
To make the read flag of proud Britton come down.
The van of our fleet was brought up compleet
Commanded by Perry the Lawrence bore down
Our guns they did roar with such terrifick power
That saviges trmebled at the dreadful sound.

The Lawrence sustained most dreadful fire
She fought three to one for two glasses or more
Whilest Perry Undaunted did firmly stand by her
And on the pround foe heavy broad sides did pose
Her masts being shattered her rigging all tatterd
And few left on deck to manage the reck
Our heroes now on board her longer could stay.

There was one gallant act of our noble commander
Whilest writing my song I shall noice with pride
When launching the smack that carried his standerd
A ball whisteled through her quite cloas by his side
Says Perry those villians intend shure to droud us
But push on my brave boy you nead never fear
And then with his coat he pluged up the boat
And through sulpour and fire away he did steer.

The famed Niagara now proud of her Perry
Displayed all her banner in gallant array
And twenty-five guns on her deck she did carrey
Which soon put an end to the sad bloody fray
A signal was given to brake through the line
Whilst from starbord and lar-bord and from every quarter
The lamps of Columbia most gloriasly shined.

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The bold British Lion now roared his last thunder
When Perry attached him cloas on his rear
The Smmerican Egale soon made him couch under
And roar out for quarters as you soon shall hear
O had you been there I vow and declare
That such a grand sight you had nere saw before
Ware six bloody flags that no longer could wag
Ware laid at the feet of our brave Commodore.

Brave Elliott ehoes vallor must now be recorded
On bord the Niagara so well played his part
His gallant assistance to Perry Afforded
Will place him the second on Lake Erie chart
In heat of the battle whose guns loud did rattle
The Lawrence a reck and her men near all slain
Away he did steer and Brought up the rear
And by this grand manover the victory was gained.

Twas delightful to see those noble cammanders
Inbracing each outher when the battle was ore
And vewin with pride thoses invincible standards
That never yealded to any before
Says Perry brave Elliot comecome give me your hand sir
This day you have gained immortal renown
And as long as Columbia Lake Erie command sirs
Let brave Elliot with Laurels be crowned.

Grait Britton may boist of her conquering heroes
Her Rodneys, Her nelsuns and all the old crewe
But Rome in her gloru near toald such a storey
Nor Boasted such feats as Columbians can do
They whole Brittish fleet was captured compleet
Not one single vessal from us got away
And prisoners some hundreds Columbians wondred
To see all ankord and moored on the bay.

May heaven still smile on the shades of these heroes
Who fought with brave Perry whose cannons did roar
And checked the proud spirit of those murdering heroes
Who wished to drive us and make us base slaves
Columbians sing and make the woods ring
And toast thoses brave heroes by sea or by land
Whilst Brittons drink Sherry Columbians drink Perrey
And toss it about with a full glass in hand.

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Note:
When I was a boy old fiddlers from the Huntington hills came into town on Saturdays and stock-sale days, and sang a version of this old ballad to the doleful accompaniment of their own fiddling - chiefly stationing themselves on the Court-House corner.

(H.H.B.)

(Scioto Gazette) Friday Evening, December 7, 1906

AN HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

Copy of Letter Accompanying Present of a Sword to Major Geo. Croghan By the Ladies of Chillicothe Found in This City.

An historical document was found by Miss Margaret McLandburgh of East Fifth Street, a few days ago while going through some old papers. The document is evidently a copy of a letter written to Major George Croghan, the defender of Sandusky upon the presentation to him of a sword.

How the letter came into the McLandburgh's family, Miss McLandburgh does not know, but it is evidently a copy made for the purpose of locating the signers to the letter at a time of reunion which was held sometime afterward.

So far as the Gazette has been able to learn this copy is the only vestige left of that memorable occasion when the women of Chillicothe as a mark of patriotism made a present of a sword to that gallant soldier Croghan whose remains were disinterred from the resting place in Kentucky and reinterred on the spot where he made such a gallant fight against the British and Indians.

The sword was sent to Major Croghan through Gen. Samuel Finley and Capt. Joseph Wheaton. The letter runs as follows:

Chillicothe, Aug. 13, 1813

Sir: In consequence of the gallant defense which under the influence of Divine Providence was effected by you and the troops under your command at Fort Stephenson at Lower Sandusky on the evening of the 2nd inst.— The Ladies of the town of Chillicothe whose names are undersigned, impressed with a high sense of your merit as a soldier and a gentleman, and with great confidence in your patriotism and valour, present you with a sword.

MAJOR GEO. CROGHAN. Signed by

MARY FINLEY	SUSAN WALKER
MARY STERRETT	ANNE M. DUNN
ANN CREIGHTON	MARY KEYES
ELIZA CREIGHTON	CHARLOTTE JAMES
ELEANOR LAMB	ESTHER DOOLITTLE
NANCY WADDLE	ELEANOR BUCHANAN
ELIZA CARLISLE	MARY McFARLAND
SUSAN D. WHEATON	DEBORAH FERREE
RICHAMAH IRWIN	JANE M. EVANS
JUDITH DELANO	NANCY BRUSH
MARGARET McLANDBURGH	MARY CURTIS
MARY T. MILLER	MARY P. BROWN
ELIZABETH MARTIN	JANE HEYLAN
NANCY McARTHUR	NANCY KERR
JANE McCOY	CATH. HOUGH
LAVINIA FULTON	ELEANOR WORTHINGTON
CATHARINE FULLERTON	MARTHA SCOTT
REBECCA M. ORR	SALLY McLANE

Toledo

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